

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Connolly *et al.* Confirmation No: To be assigned

Serial No.: To be assigned Group Art Unit: To be assigned

Filed: March 31, 2004 Examiner: To be assigned

For: Methods for Producing Biological Substances in Enzyme-Deficient Mutants of *Aspergillus niger*

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:
Before examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 2-6, 9-11, 13, 14, 18, 21-25, 27-29, 31, 32, 36, 39-43, 45-48, 50, 51, and 54-56 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 7, 8, 12, 15-17, 19, 20, 26, 30, 33-35, 37, 38, 44, 49, 52, and 53 are pending. The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.